

Fair, Cooler Tonight;  
Wednesday Fair.

# The Washington Times

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## TAFT, IN MESSAGE, URGES RATE BILL; SEES R. R. LEADERS

President Requests House to Make Measure Effective on Passage.

## EASTERN OFFICIALS AT WHITE HOUSE

Heads of Great Transportation Systems Expected to Accept Compromise Proposition.

## Latest Developments In Railroad Situation

House takes up the question of concurring in the Senate amendments.

President, after conference with Senator Crane and Mr. Mann, sends special message to Congress urging that railroad bill go into effect on passage.

At 3 o'clock, President holds conference with Presidents Brown of the New York Central and McCrea of the Pennsylvania, on withdrawal of Eastern freight increases.

Expected that Eastern roads will follow course of Western roads in withdrawing increases.

President confers again today with President Delano of the Wash. and President Felton of the Great Western.

Result of conference last evening is that Western roads agree to withdraw increases and Government agrees to drop suits begun before Judge Dyer.

President receives many messages of congratulation over settlement of difficulty with Western lines.

By JOHN SNURE.

The railroad rate situation for a period of twelve months to come is being adjusted at the White House this afternoon, where at 3 o'clock, President Taft met President Brown of the New York Central and President McCrea of the Pennsylvania system, and talked over the recent increases of freight and passenger rates proposed by Eastern roads.

Unless there is an unexpected hitch, the Eastern roads will follow the example of the roads in the Western Trunk Line Association and will withdraw the increases of freight rates which they have filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission for the purpose of allowing the Commission to pass on them under the new law.

President Taft in a special message to Congress today, in which he urged that the new railroad measure be framed so as to go into effect on passage, recounted what understanding had been arrived at with Western railroads, and said it was his hope all the other roads would take like action. But the President told Congress that he wanted the new law to go into effect at once in order that the roads would have no opportunity to put new increases into effect before the new measure became operative.

Will Clear Sky.

If the Eastern roads and the roads in Central Traffic Association territory do as the Western roads have agreed to, then the sky will be cleared so far as the railroad rate situation is concerned for something like a year to come. The Interstate Commerce Commission, under the new law, will have more than ten months to examine into the reasonableness of the rate increases.

Following on the conference at the White House yesterday afternoon and last evening, as the result of which the

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## WEATHER REPORT.

FORECAST FOR THE DISTRICT.  
Fair and somewhat cooler tonight; Wednesday fair; light to moderate west winds.

TEMPERATURES.

8 a. m.	63
9 a. m.	65
10 a. m.	66
11 a. m.	68
12 noon	68
1 p. m.	68
2 p. m.	68
3 p. m.	68

Sun rises..... 4:33  
Sun sets..... 7:28

TIDE TABLE.

Today—High tide, 7:22 a. m. and 8:38 p. m.; low tide, 1:27 a. m. and 2:13 p. m.

Tomorrow—High tide, 8:24 a. m. and 9:50 p. m.; low tide, 2:29 a. m. and 3:19 p. m.

HARPERS FERRY, W. Va., June 7.—Both rivers slightly cloudy this morning.

Doors 1 1/2-Inch Thick, \$1.50 Apiece. Frank Libbey & Co., 6th & N. Y. Ave., N. Y.

## SIXTEENTH BLOOD DEFINED AS NEGRO BY DISTRICT COURT

Complexion Has Nothing to Do With the Term, "Colored," Judge Holds.

## CHILD IS BARRED FROM WHITE SCHOOL

Decision Establishes a Precedent Which Fixes the Legal Status of African Descendants.

One-eighth to one-sixteenth of negro blood makes a child a negro in the District of Columbia.

Because Justice Dan Thew Wright, of the District Supreme Court, so decided this morning, Isabel L. Wall, the seven-year-old daughter of Stephen Wall, the proprietor of a negro pool room, will not be allowed to enter the white schools of the District. Wall will appeal from the decision.

The decision is even more far-reaching than in its effect on the settlement of the question of the child's admission to schools, for it establishes a precedent by which may be determined the more important question of what proportion of negro blood makes a negro in Washington.

In handing down his opinion Justice Wright said:

"It is to be concluded that the child is of negro blood of one-eighth or one-sixteenth, that her racial status is that of a negro. She is therefore colored according to the common meaning of the term and the application for a writ of mandamus against the Board of Education must be denied."

History of Case.

The fight to reinstate Isabel Wall in the Brookland school, following her withdrawal from that institution on the grounds that she was a negro child, has been one of long duration. When Miss Lytle, the principal, last September requested the parents to withdraw the child, the matter was immediately taken to Superintendent Stuart of the District schools. Mr. Stuart sustained the principal and the matter went before the Board of Education, who, without deciding the racial status of the child, sustained the superintendent.

Stephen Wall, the child's father, then retained Attorney John Ridout and Mr. Ridout filed a petition for a writ of mandamus to compel the Board of Education to admit Isabel Wall into the school. When the case came for hearing before Justice Wright, he decided that the Board of Education would first have to fix the status of the child, and after a session lasting nearly thirteen hours, about two weeks ago the board, by a vote of 8 to 1, decided that "for school purposes" the Wall child was a negro.

Back came the case before Justice Wright, and the matter was again being defended by Staunton C. Peelle, Assistant District Attorney. The decision of today is the result.

Looks as If White.

"There is no physical characteristic of the child which afforded ocular evidence suggestive of negro blood," declared Justice Wright. "Her father, while of light complexion, presents to the eye, racial characteristics which identify him of negro blood; her mother, formerly wife of a Mongolian, is taken to be white."

"The child's proportion of negro blood is one-eighth or one-sixteenth, the latter conceded, the former claimed with support of evidence. In the judgment of the court, the difference can have no effect in the outcome of this proceeding. Graduations of shading toward black, or graduation of shading toward fairness are of very insignificant concern in determining whether one is 'colored.'"

"The child at bar has clearly no racial status personal to itself; its status of necessity is that of its father; his, and that of his paternal ancestry has, and is conceded, been always that of a negro; he has thus been commonly known and identified, his business, to the extent proven, proprietor of a negro pool room, conforming.

Definition of Colored.

"Although providing for separate white and colored schools, Congress has by no enactment undertaken to define what race or what percentage or proportion of racial blood shall characterize an individual as 'colored,' therefore the term being without legislative definition is left to the import ascribed to it in the common parlance of the people. There is to be examined whether in the week day speech of the people the word 'colored' has a significance which should include this child."

"Actual color seems to the public to be important only as one of the several evidences which, if sufficiently pronounced, serve to identify the subject as of the negro race; and this consideration, that is to say, the consideration of racial status, seems to my mind to measure an ultimate conception to which the mind of the people has arrived."

"Persons of whatever complexion, who bear the negro blood in whatever degree, and who are in the racial status of the negro, are 'colored' in the common estimation of the people."

## THREE MEET DEATH IN AUTO ROAD RACE

BERLIN, June 7.—Two persons were killed and one fatally hurt today in the 1,200-mile road race for Prince Henry's Cup, when a big car, going at a mile a minute, dashed into a tree near Colmar.

The car was overturned and demolished, pinning two of the victims under it.

OLEO MAKER SENTENCED.

TRENTON, N. J., June 7.—John J. Fryer of Jersey City was today sentenced in the United States district court to six months in the Essex county penitentiary and fined \$500. He had been convicted of manufacturing oleomargarine with intent to defraud the Government.

## In Messina's Ruins—King Victor of Italy



Scene Following Messina Disaster of December, 1908, Likely to Be Re-enacted in Towns of Southern Italy Destroyed by Today's Earthquake.

## ROOSEVELT REMINDS ENGLISH OF DUTIES

Reiterates At Oxford Views on White Man's Rule of Aliens.

LONDON, June 7.—Theodore Roosevelt, receiving from Oxford University the degree of doctor of civil law, today demanded the maintenance of "the fighting edge"—the constant preparedness for war and readiness to use "the big stick."

Reiterating his race-suicide doctrine in his Romanes lecture, whose subject was "Biological Analogies in History," the former President again gave his views on the position of the white man in his subject lands—views of especial interest now because of the future created by the Guildhall speech criticizing British rule in Egypt and the aspirations of the natives there.

"The Englishman and the American," he said, "are brought into contact with utterly alien peoples, some with a civilization more ancient than their own; others still in or having but recently arisen from barbarism."

"The problems that arise are of well-nigh inconceivable difficulty. They cannot be solved by the foolish sentimentality of stay-at-home people, with little patent recipes and those cut-and-dried theories of the political nursery which have such limited applicability amid the crash of elemental forces."

"Neither can they be solved by the raw brutality of the men who adopt might as the only standard and treat

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KING VICTOR EMMANUEL.

## INSURGENTS OBJECT TO A CONFERENCE

Tense Situation In House During Preliminaries to Railroad Fight.

A mild and deep silence and an air of suppressed excitement among the biggest representation of members that have been together on the floor of the House for several weeks, Representative Mann (Rep. Ill.), chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee, today asked unanimous consent of the House to take the railroad bill from the Speaker's table and ask a conference with the Senate.

Representative Lenroot (Rep. Wis.), of the insurgents, immediately objected. A burst of applause on the Democratic side greeted his move.

Representative Mann then moved to disagree to the Senate bill and ask a conference.

Speaker Cannon, under the rules, then directed that the Senate amendments be read. Since the Senate amendments were a substitute bill in its entirety, the clerk began reading the thick document from the beginning. After a few moments Mann moved to dispense with the reading. Fitzgerald (Dem. N. Y.) objected and the clerk went ahead.

Previous to this the Republican side of the House greeted President's Taft's message with a round of applause.

Whips on both sides of the House rounded up every available member when the House met. Not since the famous rules fight of March 17, had there been so many members in their seats when Uncle Joe's gavel fell at noon.

TRAIN "SPLITS" SWITCH.

ROANOKE, Va., June 7.—Norfolk and Western passenger train No. 42, known as the Washington and Chattanooga Limited, was wrecked at Seven Mile Ford, between Roanoke and Bristol, probably by "splitting a switch." Twelve persons were injured, none seriously.

## RECORDS REMOVED, SAYS AUDITOR LEE

On Stand In Miller Trial, Describes Opening of Empty Safe.

"When the doors of the safe of the First Co-operative Building Association of Georgetown were opened, the depositary was almost empty. The most important of the books of record were not to be found."

Describing in this manner the discovery that not only was the First Co-operative Building Association insolvent in June, 1908, but that none of the books could be found, Joseph H. Lee, the auditor of the defunct association, was called as the first witness today in the trial of John Barton Miller, former secretary treasury of the association, charged with embezzlement.

"Lee, who was also a director of the concern, when sworn, first referred to

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## Do You Know Dorothy Dix?

Is there one woman in all Washington who has not heard of Dorothy Dix? Such a question might even be put to the men of Washington.

Dorothy Dix writes about things as they are, as they should be. And she does not spare her own sex to score a point. Many a man has laughed gleefully at some of his sisters' weaknesses as depicted by Dorothy Dix, only to have the laugh turned on himself the very next day.

Dorothy Dix's first Times article appears on the Woman's Page of tomorrow evening's issue, where it will be a daily and Sunday feature.

## Make Her Acquaintance Tomorrow

Dorothy Dix writes for The Times exclusively in Washington.

## ITALY SHAKEN AGAIN, HUNDREDS DEAD, FATE OF CITIES IN DOUBT

Horror of Messina Earthquake May Be Eclipsed by Disaster Which Visits Four Provinces in Southern Part of Country.

## VESUVIUS SHOWS SIGNS OF ACTIVITY

Extent of Damage on Coast by Seismic Wave Uncertain—Pope and King Grief-Stricken—Fund of \$100,000 Voted for Relief.

### BULLETIN.

NAPLES, June 7.—Naples was today shaken by a severe earthquake. The shocks continue. The coast to the south, including Salerno, is also affected. The death list will run into hundreds. Vesuvius is giving signs of eruption and panic prevails. The southern part of the Italian peninsula is believed to have suffered enormous damage.

Dispatches from Avellino, twenty miles east of here, report heavy damage in the surrounding country and the death of more than 100.

The population of Avellino province is 450,000, and of the town itself 18,000.

Many villages in the Appenines are thought to have been destroyed or badly damaged. Fears are felt for Altavilla, near Avellino, a town of 6,000.

It was reported this afternoon that Paola, a coast town of 9,000 in Calabria, had also suffered much damage. The most severe shocks lasted more than fifteen seconds in the south.

### BULLETIN.

ROME, June 7.—King Victor Emmanuel today left for the earthquake zone in a special train. In spite of the protests of his advisers, the King said: "My place is where I can do the most good."

A heavy escort accompanied the King. The Italian parliament this afternoon voted \$100,000 as a relief fund for earthquake sufferers. Of this amount \$10,000 was sent immediately to the prefect of Avellino.

Martial law has been proclaimed throughout the entire stricken district. Troops are digging in the ruins.

ROME, June 7.—Terrific earthquake shocks—the worst since those of December, 1908, which destroyed Reggio and Messina—today shook Central and Southern Italy.

Hundreds are believed to be dead and many towns destroyed. Calitri, an Apulian town of 8,000 people, is in ruins and twenty are known to be dead there alone.

A seismic wave is reported to have swept the Gulf of Manfredonia, on the Adriatic, and grave fears are felt for Bari, a city of 80,000.

### FATE OF MANY TOWNS IN DOUBT.

The reports received here said that the earthquake was felt through the provinces of Basilicata, Campania, and Calabria; and in Sicily as well as in Apulia. The destruction of telegraph wires left the fate of scores of towns in doubt.

A special emergency meeting of the cabinet was called immediately upon receipt of information here, and relief plans were considered.

The news was received at the same time at the Vatican. The Pope immediately retired to his private chapel to pray for the people of the affected district.

### SPECIAL SERVICES HELD IN ROME.

Special services were held in all the churches of Rome. King Victor Emmanuel directed that all information be taken to him on its receipt. Both the King and Queen were deeply affected by the disaster.

Premier Luzzatti summoned all the resources of the government to ascertain the extent of the damage and adopt measures for relief. Signor A. Giuffe, minister of posts and telegraphs, and Avv. Ettore Secchi, minister of public works, aided by the minister of war, Gen. Paolo Spingardi, were deputed to work every man in their departments, if necessary, to get news from the stricken region.

### Districts Affected.

The Valley of the Ofanto, running east through Apulia, and the mountains where it has its source, between Apulia and Basilicata, according to the first meager reports, were the chief sufferers.

Saint Angelo de Lombardie with 7,000 inhabitants, and Conza, ten miles to the southeast with 1,600 people, are reported partly destroyed. The Cathedral of Conza, according to one account, is said to be in ruins. Potenza, population 17,000, which has been frequently shaken in the last year, also suffered, according to the advices received here semi-officially, as did in the same region Canosa, 25,000; Pinerolo, 12,000, and Trinitapoli, 16,000.

It is feared that much of the territory affected by the great earthquake of 1908, which killed 200,000 persons, has been affected by the new disaster, say the dispatches arriving here today.

The railroad lines have been destroyed for many miles, and the work of giving

## GIRL, 16, ATTEMPTS SUICIDE BY SHOOTING

Roberta Bardoss, sixteen years old, who resides with her widowed mother and a younger sister at Glen Echo, Md., shot herself in the left breast with a thirty-eight caliber revolver shortly after 10 o'clock this morning, inflicting a wound that it is thought will cause her death.

The young woman was hurriedly brought to the Georgetown Hospital in an unconscious condition, and up to a late hour has not regained consciousness. The surgeons at the hospital are unable to say whether she will live.

### MAGNATE'S WIDOW DIES.

PHILADELPHIA, June 7.—Mrs. Louise B. Elkins, widow of William L. Elkins, financier and traction magnate, died last night, seventy-nine years old.